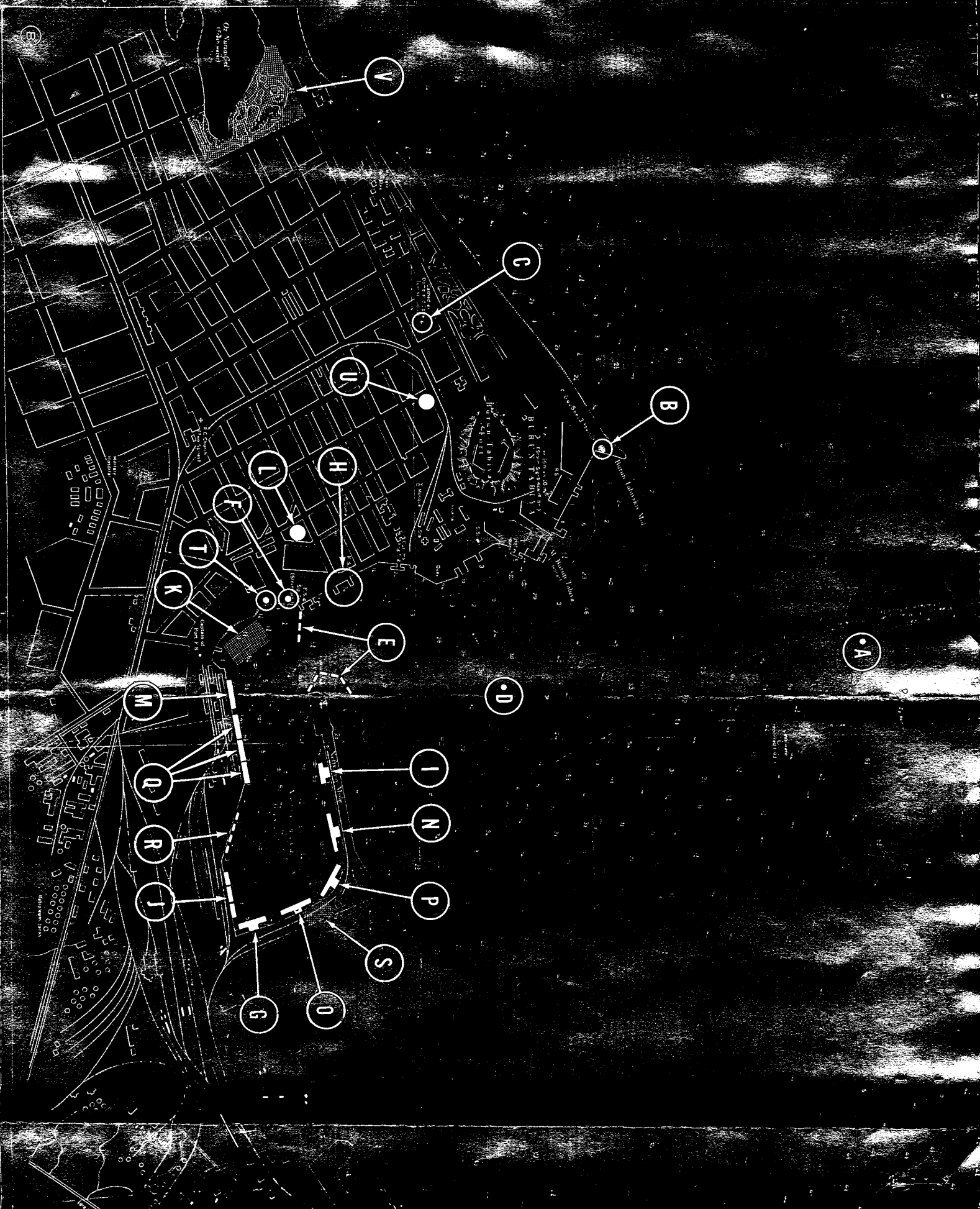


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INFORMATION REPORT			
PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY			
COUNTRY USSR			
SUBJECT Port Information: Batumi	DATE DISTRIBUTED 22 DEC '55		
	NO. OF PAGES 5	NO. OF ENCLS.	
	SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT #		
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<p>2. <u>Alphabetical Designators</u> In connection with information contained herein, specific points of interest are noted on photostatic copy of HO Chart No 4206 and referred to in this report by the following alphabetical designators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Anchorage; Incoming Pilot aboard B. Radio Beacon C. Cathedral Dome and Spires D. Outgoing Pilot discharged E. Submarine Net F. Port Captain's office G. Berth H. Naval Installation I. Oil Lighter Berth J. Three large barge-mounted Pile Drivers K. Three-masted Sailing Vessel; Fishing Boat Moorage L. Large Brick Office Building under construction M. M S BELKARIN (NO) N. Soviet Merchant Tanker O. German Merchant Tanker P. Finnish Merchant Tanker Q. Three Soviet Passenger Vessels R. Soviet Coastal Merchant Freighters S. Wharf being filled T. Cafe U. International Restaurant V. Public Park 			
<p>3. <u>Approaches and Pilot Data</u> Vessel aboard [] subject port 8-14 Sep 55 arrived in ballast and loaded 9500 metric tons pure coal tar benzol.</p> <p>[] vessel radioed ETA 36 hours in advance to INFLOT, Batumi, vessel radioed ETA again 12 hours in advance to INFLOT, Batumi, and received orders to drop anchor at designator A to await pilot. Radio beacon at designator B on top</p>			

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of conspicuous cathedral dome and spire at designator C were used as prominent landmarks in reaching anchorage.

Vessel reached designator A and anchored 082310C Sep 55. Pilot did not come aboard until 091210C, and vessel got underway into harbor 20 minutes later. Incoming pilot boarded vessel from a small tug instead of usual motor launch because of heavy swells and intermittent rain squalls. Pilot appeared to be about 45 years old, spoke little English, and provided good service. Outgoing pilot boarded vessel at her berth 141900C, conducted vessel out of harbor, and was discharged 141940C at designator D. He boarded a small motor launch which had followed from berth when departing vessel. Heavy rain squalls covered subject port 8-10 Sep 55 accompanied by thunder and lightning and southwest winds at force 3. Weather was clear 11-14 Sep 55, and southwest winds receded to force 2. Highest temperature recorded during visit was 81°F and lowest was 52°F.

4. Anchorage Vessel anchored only at designator A in the authorized anchorage area.
5. Harbor Although no soundings were taken, depth of harbor is below that shown on HO Chart No 4206. On departure, after loading cargo, vessel churned up muddy water and encountered poor steerage as a result. A submarine net was observed at designator E. Lights were noted on the two ends of the net boom. The port captain's office is located at designator F.
6. Controls Vessel was boarded by customs, agriculture, immigration, and health representatives after mooring at her berth labeled designator G. No search of vessel was made. Crew was not mustered. Officials sealed vessel's radio and all cameras. Vessel is not equipped with radar. Sextant, guns and ammunition, provisions, binoculars, flares, and personal effects were not sealed. Crew members' papers were checked. Vessel was not searched on departure. A guard armed with a submachine gun was posted on wharf at vessel's gangway to check all shore passes. Another guard dressed in a Soviet naval uniform and armed with a submachine gun was posted at truck and railroad gate to harbor area. A third guard in a green uniform and armed with a submachine gun was posted at pedestrian gate to harbor area and also checked papers of all persons entering and departing harbor area. A 30' Soviet patrol boat mounting a 20 mm gun with shield forward came out from harbor, showing no lights, soon after vessel anchored at designator A and circled vessel playing searchlight upon her. Three other similar patrol craft, possibly PTC, were moored at naval facility labeled designator H. All crew members were permitted ashore upon presentation of half his pass to gangway guard who retained it until crew member returned aboard vessel, at which time it was returned to him. Passes were checked by guard at harbor pedestrian gate. All passes were collected by the authorities before vessel sailed.
7. Harbor Craft Vessel used one of the three tugs observed at subject port for pushing bow away from wharf on departure. Pilot requested tug for mooring on arrival but port authorities refused request. Two of the tugs are small, the other is large ocean-going type which was engaged in towing a large oil lighter into harbor to berth labeled designator I. Three large barge-mounted pile drivers were moored at designator J and were inactive during period of call. Fishing boats were observed moored off a 4' seawall in area labeled designator K.
8. Berth Vessel moored 091345C at berth labeled designator G. Offshore wharf is wood structure approximately 100' wide extending 50' into Neftyanaya Gavan, and is equipped with 8-10 fuel lines. (See sketch of wharf below.) A large open shed is located nearby wharf and two railroad spur tracks run alongside apron. An old steam engine was observed switching railroad cars on these tracks. Vessel received cargo through one 8" hose. Ballast was pumped between 091430C and 102230C. Loading was delayed because cargo was not ready. On one occasion loading was halted until POL tank could be refilled from a railroad tank car. Cargo loading was completed 141615C. Vessel loaded no supplies or bunkers. Good quality drinking water was received through a 3" hose at berth. Steam

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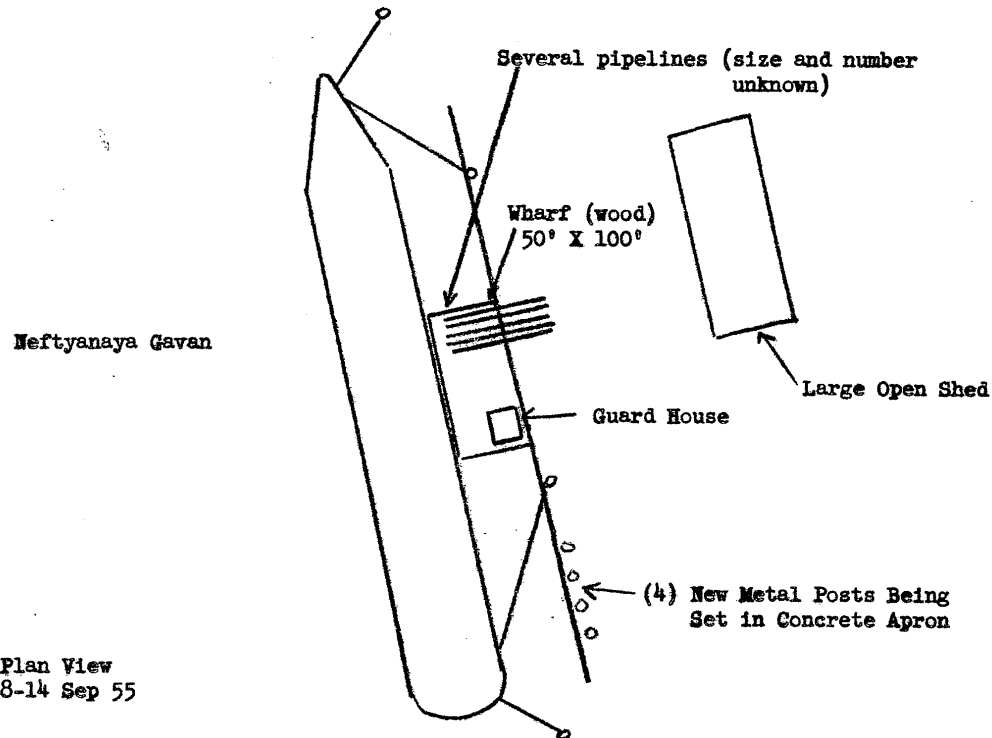
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and electricity were available but were not used. Sewage was dumped into bay but garbage was held for disposal at sea. For fire protection a fire hose is available on wharf. In this connection, source reported welding torches were being used alongside wharf in an open shed in apparent disregard of prudent safety precautions.

BERTH LABELED DESIGNATOR G, NEFTYANAYA GAVAN, BATUMI, USSR

N
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Plan View
8-14 Sep 55

9. Construction [redacted] a large brick office building under construction at designator L.
10. Naval Installations Because of poor visibility at times of arrival and departure [redacted] no information on this subject.
11. Shipbuilding and Ship Repair No vessels were observed to be under construction in shipyard located south of Mys Burun Tabiya.
12. Grain [redacted] no information on this subject.
13. Coasting Harbor No activity of any kind was observed in the Coasting Harbor.
14. Naval Vessels Presence of four Soviet naval vessels, possibly PTC, at naval facility has been reported in paragraph 6 above. A three-masted sailing vessel used for training purposes [redacted] was moored at designator K. No submarines or major surface units were present. [redacted] an unusual circular or oblong craft whose diameter was about 30' at designator H. The vessel [redacted] looked like two table plates welded together, the top plate being turned down. In the center of the top plate there was a large glass-enclosed dome which appeared to be the pilot house. A walk-way around ringed the outside of the pilot house. No guns were noted on the vessel. Body of vessel was yellow and superstructure was blue. [redacted] visibility was poor because of weather. Sketch of craft is drawn below:

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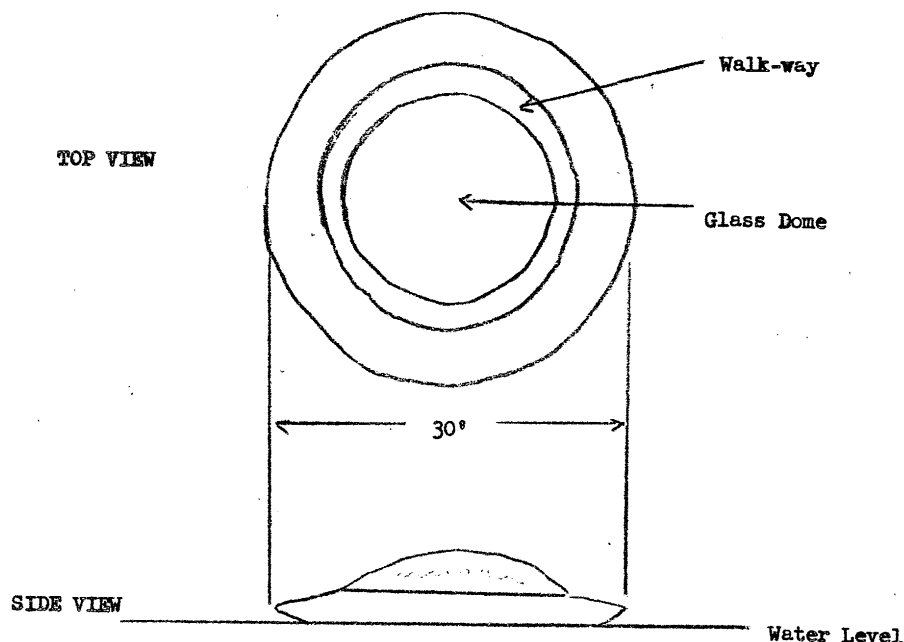
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15. Merchant Vessels The M S BELKARIN (NO), 6550 gross tons merchant freighter, was moored at designator M, discharging a cargo of sugar from Cuba. A Soviet T-2 type tanker was moored at designator N loading petroleum cargo. A new German merchant tanker of approximately four thousand gross tons was moored at designator O loading petroleum cargo. A Finnish merchant tanker was moored at designator P loading a petroleum cargo. Names and specific cargoes being loaded by the above three tankers were not known [redacted] Three Soviet passenger vessels of approximately five thousand gross tons were moored at designator Q. Soviet coastal merchant freighters were moored alongside wharf at designator R. One of these coastal vessels was discharging a "white material," [redacted] which was being carried by truck to point near designator S for dumping as wharf fill. A three-ton dipper crane was working the coastal freighter.

16. Miscellaneous A cafe catering to merchant seamen and fishermen is located at designator T. The large "International Restaurant" catering primarily to tourist and seamen is located at designator U. Food and drinks as well as prostitutes are available at both places. Crew members reported that girls would not go to a room, preferring to have relations in taxicabs in the public park area labeled designator V.

[redacted] The submarine net at harbor entrance and absence of search on arrival in keeping with the new "soft" policy confirmed herein were previously reported. This report also forwards certain new information not previously reported. The availability of prostitutes in subject port, noted in paragraph 16, is the first report received by this office. Evidently the authorities are permitting this accommodation for merchant seamen as a part of Soviet "good will" policy. The unusual craft described and sketched in paragraph 14 has not been reported before at subject port.7

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